

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 02948 211541Z
ACTION ARA-14

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEGUCIGALPA 2948

EO 11652 N/A
TAGS? BDIS, HO
SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN DEL WEBB CASE

REF: (A) STATE 155645, (B) TEGUCIGALPA 2944

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AIDE-MEMOIRE WHICH AMBASSADOR JARAMILLO
HANDED TO FONMIN PALMA GALVEZ DURING HER CALL ON HIM
REGARDING THIS CASE.

QUOTE REFERRING TO THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN HIS EXCELLENCY
THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE AMBASSADOR OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON JUNE 20, 1978, CONCERNING THE
PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY THE DEL WEBB CORPORATION TO THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE FOR SETTLEMENT OF THE COMPANY'S CLAIM
FOR PAYMENT OF COST OVER-RUNS IN CONSTRUCTING THE TELA-LA
CEIBA HIGHWAY, HIS EXCELLENCY WILL RECALL THAT THE AMBASSADOR
DESCRIBED ACTIONS PLANNED BY CERTAIN UNITED STATES CONGRESSMEN
IN FORTHCOMING CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE ON FOREIGN ECONOMIC
AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE APPROPRIATIONS, UNLESS THE RESULTS
OF CONSIDERATION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF HONDURAS ON THIS CLAIM
ARE MADE KNOWN. THE CONCERN OF THE CONGRESSMEN IS THAT THERE
HAS BEEN LITTLE APPARENT PROGRESS ON RESOLVING THE CLAIM IN
THE SIX MONTHS SINCE ITS SUBMISSION TO THE MINISTRY OF
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FINANCE.

AMONG THE ACTIONS PLANNED BY DIFFERENT CONGRESSMEN ARE:
1) TO ENTER INTO THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD DURING THE THURSDAY,
JUNE 22 DEBATE ON FOREIGN AID APPROPRIATIONS A HISTORY
OF HONDURAS' UNRESPONSIVENESS TO THE DEL WEBB CLAIM AND;
2) TO THREATEN "RESTRICTION" OF \$23.4 MILLION ECONOMIC AND

MILITARY ASSISTANCE IF THE DECISION OF HONDURAS IS NOT ISSUED PRIOR TO SENATE DEBATE ON FOREIGN ASSISTANCE WHICH IS EXPECTED IN APPROXIMATELY THREE WEEKS.

THE AMBASSADOR MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE EMBASSY DOES NOT WISH TO CONVEY PRESSURE FOR A RESOLUTION OF THE CLAIM WHICH IS FAVORABLE TO DEL WEBB. THE CONCERN ONLY RELATES TO A DESIRE, IN VIEW OF THE LAPSE OF TIME, FOR A DECISION ON THE CLAIM. THE AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED, FURTHER, THAT IF IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF HONDURAS TO REACH A DEFINITE DECISION ON THE CLAIM AT AN EARLY DATE, THAT IT WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATED IF HONDURAS WOULD PROVIDE A REPORT ON THE PROGRESS TOWARD RESOLUTION OF THE CLAIM AND AN INDICATION AS TO WHEN A DECISION MIGHT BE REACHED.

THE AMBASSADOR ALSO INFORMED HIS EXCELLENCY THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS ADVISED THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF THE EMBASSY OF HONDURAS IN WASHINGTON OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED CONGRESSIONAL INTENTIONS. UNQUOTE
JARAMILLO

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